UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/402
30 August 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
Item 99 of the provisional agenda*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 29 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 5 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to Your Excellency and to the declaration of the European Community and its member States on Myanmar issued at The Hague on 29 July 1991 annexed thereto, the texts of which were circulated as General Assembly document A/46/351 dated 8 August 1991.

The Union of Myanmar finds it most regrettable that the European Community has deemed it fit to make yet another attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of Myanmar. The premises on which the Community's earlier statements on Myanmar were based were completely fallacious and were founded on limited knowledge of Myanmar affairs and biased views. Its most recent declaration is no exception.

The assertion that the Myanmar Government has shown no sign of respecting the wishes of the people is completely unfounded. The State Law and Order Restoration Council is making its best endeavours to build a democratic state at a pace and in a manner best suited to the conditions of the country and the aspirations of the Myanmar people. To that end the Council issued on 27 July 1990 Declaration No. 1/90 setting forth a definite programme to be implemented following the elections of May 1990. All political parties have expressed their agreement in writing to abide by this Declaration. Casting doubts on the declared intentions and good faith of the State Law and Order Restoration Council could sow seeds of discord between the Government and the political parties and thus endanger the ongoing political process in Myanmar.

---

* A/46/150.

The Union of Myanmar strongly objects to the attempt by the European Community to introduce an entirely new and extraneous element under item 99 of the provisional agenda, namely, procurement of defence equipment by a State Member of the United Nations. This is an attempt arbitrarily and selectively to negate the inherent right of self-defence which Article 51 of the Charter affords to every State Member as well as the right of every State to determine its own defence requirements and to procure from abroad such defence equipment as are not produced domestically to meet those requirements. Regrettably, the European Community has chosen to ignore the existence in the border areas of Myanmar of heavily armed terrorist groups which are disturbing and disrupting the peace and security of the people and are perpetrating crimes of every description, including killing of innocent villagers and destruction of public and private property. It has also chosen to ignore the fact that similarly armed drug trafficking gangs which are feeding the international traffic in illicit drugs are operating in these areas. The Union of Myanmar has consistently pursued a policy of friendship and goodwill towards all nations, and has never posed, nor will it ever pose, any threat to any country. Such arms as it has procured are meant solely to meet the needs of legitimate national self-defence.

Human rights in Myanmar are protected not only by a comprehensive and well-developed legal system but also by the age-old and time-tested traditions and cultural values of the country and its people. As a responsible Member of the United Nations, Myanmar has long been cooperating fully with the relevant bodies of the Organization to dispel such doubts as may be created by the baseless and biased allegations of human rights violations emanating from certain quarters. Myanmar's cooperation on human rights questions has been amply documented by the United Nations bodies concerned.

Without prejudice to the firmly held position of my Government that the political process now under way in the country is a matter falling essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of Myanmar in the terms of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter, I have the honour to request that the text of this letter be circulated as a document of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly under item 99 of the provisional agenda, in connection with the question of enhancing the effectiveness of the principles of periodic and genuine elections.

(Signed) KYAW MIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative